

S T O W M A R K E T

URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL.

ANNUAL REPORTS

of the

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH
(part time)

MARJORY A. DAWSON, M. B., Ch. B., D. P. H.

and the

SANITARY INSPECTOR.

and

HEAT AND FOODS INSPECTOR.

J. S. FISHER, C. R. S. I., M. S. I. A..

for the year

1949.

STOWMARKET URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL.

Annual Reports of the Medical Officer of Health and
the Sanitary Inspector for the year 1949.

Council Offices,
Ipswich Road,
STOWMARKET.

July, 1950.

To The Chairman and Members of the
STOWMARKET URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL.

Gentlemen,

Annual Report of the Medical Officer of Health.

I have the honour to present the Annual Report for the year, 1949. As I did not assume the office of Medical Officer of Health until 1st July, 1950, I am indebted to my predecessor Dr.P.J.H.Clarke for the data of the various sections of the report and I wish to acknowledge his assistance and also that of Mr.Fisher, in compiling it.

GENERAL STATISTICS.

Area	- - - - -	1,696 acres.
Population (Registrar General's figures).		7,292.
Inhabited Houses.	- -	2,272.
Rateable Value.	- -	£43,413.
Sum represented by a penny rate.		£171. (estimated).

BIRTHS. (Registrar General's figures).

<u>LIVE BIRTHS.</u>	M.	F.	Total.
Total.	63.	60.	123.
Legitimate.	61.	58.	119.
Illegitimate.	2.	2.	4.

BIRTH RATE :-

per 1,000 civilian population.	= 16.868.
do. do. England and Wales.	= 16.7

<u>STILL BIRTHS.</u>	M.	F.	Total.
Total.	-	3.	3.
Legitimate.	-	3.	3.
Illegitimate.	-	-	-

RATE :-

per 1,000 civilian population.	= 0.411
do. do. England and Wales.	= 0.39

INFANTILE MORTALITY (Under one year).

	M.	F.	Total.
Total.	1.	-	1.
Legitimate.	1.	-	1.
Illegitimate.	-	-	-

INFANTILE MORTALITY RATE :-

per 1,000 Live Births.	= 8.13
do. do. England and Wales.	= 32.
	1.

DEATHS (Registrar General's figures).

ALL CAUSES.	M. 50.	F. 49.	Total. 99.
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DEATH RATE :

per 1,000 civilian population.	=	13.577
do. do. England and Wales.	=	11.7

COMPARATIVE TABLE FOR THE LAST THREE YEARS.

	1947.	1948.	1949.	England & Wales 1949.	London 1949.
Inhabited Houses.	2,149.	2,228.	2,273.	-	-
Estimated Population.	6,881.	7,246.	7,292.	-	-
Live Births.	142.	125.	123.	-	-
Birth Rate per 1,000 population.	20.64	17.25	16.868.	16.7	18.5
Infantile Mortality Rate per 1,000 Live Births.	14.1	8.00	8.13	32.0	29.0
Death Rate per 1,000 population.	11.63	10.49	13.577	11.7	12.2

CAUSES OF DEATH.

	M.	F.	Total.
Tuberculosis of respiratory system.	1.	1.	2.
Cancer of stomach and duodenum.	1.	-	1.
Cancer of breast.	-	2.	2.
Cancer of all other sites.	6.	7.	13.
Intracranial vascular lesions.	4.	10.	14.
Heart diseases.	20.	18.	38.
Other diseases of the circulatory system.	2.	4.	6.
Bronchitis.	4.	2.	6.
Pneumonia.	1.	2.	3.
Other digestive diseases.	-	1.	1.
Nephritis.	2.	-	2.
Con:mal: birth inj; infant; dis:	3.	-	3.
Suicide.	1.	-	1.
Other violent causes.	1.	-	1.
All other causes.	4.	2.	6.

Total :-	50.	49.	99.
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NOTIFIABLE DISEASES (excluding Tuberculosis) compiled from notifications received.

Age	-1	1	2	3	4	5	10	15	20	35	45	65	Total	Admitted to Hospital	Deaths
Scarlet Fever.	-	-	2	1	2	6	1	-	-	-	-	-	12	6	-
Whooping Cough.	2	3	3	7	3	9	-	-	-	-	-	-	27	-	-
Measles.	4	5	12	21	8	43	-	-	-	1	-	-	94	-	-
Acute Pneumonia.	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	-	1	3	-	1
Ophthalmia Neonatorum.	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	1	-
Puerperal Pyrexia.	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	-	-	-	2	1	-
Erysipelas.	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	-	3	-	-
													142.	8.	1.

Whooping Cough showed the greatest incidence during the period mid-March to mid-May.

There was an outbreak of Measles during March and April, reaching a peak at the end of March.

DIPHTHERIA IMMUNISATION.

Percentage of pre-School children immunised. = 67.79
 Percentage of all School children immunised. = 69.2
 Booster treatment during 1949. = 95.

The efficacy of immunisation against Diphtheria was again reflected in the fact that not a single case of the disease was notified during the year. This is the third year in succession.

TUBERCULOSIS.

<u>Pulmonary.</u>		<u>Non Pulmonary.</u>	
<u>M.</u>	<u>F.</u>	<u>M.</u>	<u>F.</u>
2.	3.	2.	2.

(i) New cases notified.

(ii) Ages of new cases :-

Pulmonary (Lungs) :-

Males:- 30 and 50 years.

Females:- 21, 28, and 48 years.

Non-Pulmonary:-

Males:- 22 and 50 years.

Females:- 3 and 16 years.

(iii) Cases "crossed off the Register as recovered" during the year :-

1 Non-Pulmonary (Female, 18 years).

(iv) Cases "crossed off the Register" by removal to other Districts or by Death during the year :-

1 Pulmonary (Male, aged 32 years).

1 Non Pulmonary (Male, 22 years).

1 Pulmonary (Female, 21 years). - Died.

(v) Cases on the Register at the end of the year :-

<u>Pulmonary.</u>		<u>Non-Pulmonary.</u>	
<u>M.</u>	<u>F.</u>	<u>M.</u>	<u>F.</u>
15.	8.	6.	12.

SECTION 47 OF THE NATIONAL ASSISTANCE ACT, 1948.

Four cases were investigated, but no action was considered necessary under this Section.

WATER.

(i) The water supply for the area and of its several parts has been satisfactory in quality and quantity.

(ii) Samples were taken by the Sanitary Inspector for bacteriological examination as follows :-

- | | | | |
|-----|---|---|----|
| (a) | Town (Station Road) Waterworks . | - | 1. |
| (b) | Services off the Town Supply. | - | 4. |
| (c) | Poplar Hill Waterworks. | - | - |
| (d) | Services off the Poplar Hill Supply. | - | 3. |
| (e) | Services from Stowupland Waterworks Supply. | - | 1. |
| (f) | Private Well (34 & 36, Stowupland Street). | - | 1. |

The results of all, excepting (f) were satisfactory. The well at (f) was closed, and the houses connected to the public mains.

The waters were not liable to have plumbo-solvent action. No action, other than that relating to (f), in respect of any form of contamination, was necessary.

The number of dwelling houses and the population supplied from public water mains were as follows :-

- | | | | |
|-----|--------------------------|---|-----------------------------------|
| (a) | Direct to houses. | - | 2,198 (Population approx: 7,020). |
| (b) | By means of stand-pipes. | - | 10. (Population approx: 80). |

In addition, 34 houses (population approximately 140) are supplied from the Stowupland Waterworks, which is in the Gipping Rural District.

SEWERAGE.

I am indebted to the Council's Surveyor for the following report :-

Improvements and Extensions to Stowmarket Sewerage Scheme.

Stage I of the approved Scheme has now reached an advanced stage and after considerable sub-surface difficulties the new Pumping Station at Prentice Road is now nearing completion. Three vertical spindle fullway centrifugal pumps and motors have been fitted and when in use they will be able to raise sewage at the rate of approximately 36,000 g.p.h. each. Normally one pump only will be in action, but provision is made for a second pump to cut in automatically when the incoming flow exceeds the capacity of one pump.

At the Sewage Disposal site the following works are completed or nearing completion :-

- Access Road.
- Balancing Tanks.
- Upward Flow Settlement Tanks.
- Lea Recorder and Flume.
- Sludge Drying Beds.
- Return and Supernatant Water Pumping Station.

Equipment at the latter includes two vertical spindle centrifugal pumps and motors, each capable of raising settled sewage at the rate of approximately 21,000 g.p.h.

Stage II (Remainder of scheme). This will not be approved until all effluents, domestic and trade, are collected and delivered at one point. This is the object of Stage I

The trade effluent pumping main from the factory of Messrs.I.C.I. (Paints) Ltd., has been completed, and such effluent is being discharged into the old settlement tanks for the time being.

MEAT AND OTHER FOODS.

Details of action taken with regard to meat and other foods, and of the inspection of meat, slaughterhouses, shops, stalls, and vehicles, and of food preparation premises, and also information about ante - and post mortem inspection of animals, including the Table of Carcases Inspected and Condemned are contained in the Sanitary Inspector's Report.

FOOD POISONING OUTBREAKS.

One case of Food Poisoning was notified during the year, but the causal agent was not definitely established.

MINISTRY OF LABOUR AND NATIONAL SERVICE FORM 572.

A copy of this form is attached to this Report, and copies have been distributed as required.

I am, Gentlemen,
Your obedient servant.

MARJORY A. DAWSON.

Medical Officer of Health.

STOMARKET URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL.

Council Offices,
Ipswich Road,
STOMARKET.

July, 1950.

To The Chairman and Members of the
STOMARKET URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL.

Gentlemen,

Annual Report of the Sanitary Inspector.

I beg to present my fourth Annual Report, this being for the year 1949.

There is fortunately nothing spectacular to report, and this may be claimed as an indication of the close watch over and careful attention to public health matters paid over the years, and to the general sanitary condition of the town as a whole. There has been little which has necessitated formal report to the Council, and most of what has been achieved has been by informal action. The preventive aspect of Public Health work is quite as important as the corrective, and occupies much time, and in both spheres informal action is usually the most successful and satisfactory. The report indicates briefly the main features of the year's work.

HOUSING.

This remains one of the most urgent questions of the day, both as regards providing new accommodation and that of maintaining existing houses in a reasonable state of repair, with ever rising building and repair costs and controlled and comparatively low rents. There is the problem, too, of houses so far below a reasonable standard that they can only be regarded as fit for demolition but which have to be tolerated and kept at least reasonably weatherproof and can only at present be dealt with, in the main, as they become vacant - which is not very often. Initial representations were made in respect of seven such houses, three being vacant and four occupied. One was converted into a store and an undertaking accepted that it would not be re-used for human habitation; two were overhauled and extensively repaired as a result of informal action; and the remaining four were being made the subject of a Clearance Order.

With respect to new houses, 36 publicly owned - eight houses, Bury Road, and 28 "Orlit" houses, Valley View Road - and nine privately owned, were completed during the year. Sixty Council flats in 15 blocks, off Recreation Road, and five privately owned houses were in course of erection at the close of the year.

OVERCROWDING.

One case of gross overcrowding and three other cases came to light during the year. Others undoubtedly exist, and there are many cases of two and more families occupying one house. Apart from the one case referred to, which was by members of one family, the most urgent cases occurring since the cessation of hostilities have now been dealt with.

DIRTY HOUSES.

One case has given considerable anxiety for the past three or four years, and there appears to be no power to deal effectively with it. Section 47 of the National Assistance Act, 1948, has been deemed not to be applicable, and suggestions for voluntarily entering a Home or Hospital have been rejected. Statutory action under the Public Health Act, 1936, is hardly appropriate, nor would it produce any substantial effect if it were taken. It is a case of Senile Dementia, and was visited by a Magistrate with a view to certification, and the person's own Doctor also examined her at the request of her family, but neither were prepared to take action. It was eventually referred to the Mental Welfare Department of the County Council, who are keeping it under review but who so far have been unable to take any definite action.

SECTION 47 OF THE NATIONAL ASSISTANCE ACT, 1948.

Four cases were investigated with the Medical Officer of Health, and a number of visits paid. In each case there was no doubt that the best interests of the persons concerned would be better served by their entering a Home, but none of them would be persuaded, and definite action under the Act was not considered necessary.

MOVEABLE DWELLINGS.

One licence to station and use a Moveable Dwelling was renewed during the year.

MEAT AND FOODS.

The subject of Food Hygiene continued to be given the closest attention. Brief details of the work carried out are given under their several headings.

(a) Meat (Home Killed).

CARCASSES INSPECTED AND CONDEMNED.

	Cattle excluding Cows.	Cows.	Calves.	Sheep and Lambs.	Pigs.
Number killed.	698.	309.	1,110.	1,641.	323.
Number inspected.	698.	309.	1,110.	1,641.	323.
All diseases except Tuberculosis.					
Whole carcasses condemned.	3.	2.	3.	4.	9.
Carcasses of which some part or organ was condemned.	213.	71.	7.	66.	114.
Percentage of the number inspected affected with disease other than Tuberculosis.	30.94	23.6	0.9	4.27	38.1
Tuberculosis only.					
Whole carcasses condemned.	4.	16.	2.	-	5.
Carcasses of which some part or organ was condemned.	62.	89.	3.	-	15.
Percentage of the number inspected affected with Tuberculosis.	9.46	34.0	0.45	-	6.2

A 100% inspection of all carcasses passing through the Government Central Slaughterhouse was again carried out, and on those occasions when I was away on holiday, etc., the Slaughterhouse Manager, from whom I received every assistance at all times, carried out the inspections for me. Arrangements were made for calling in the Sanitary Inspector of the adjoining Rural District in cases of doubt during my absence.

A total of approximately 13.32 tons of Meat and Offals - 17,618 lbs and 12,210½ lbs. respectively - was condemned at the Slaughterhouse as unfit for human consumption.

Specimens from one Sheep's carcass suspected as being affected with Tuberculosis were submitted to the Public Health Laboratory for examination, but no acid-fast bacilli were found.

2,422 lbs. of meat from other districts were condemned - 2,367 lbs. for Decomposition, 44 lbs. for Tuberculosis, and 11 lbs. for Echymosis.

(b) Other Meat.

No Imported Meat was condemned.

(c) Tinned and Other Foods.

764 tins and 5 packets of various foods weighing 1,159 lbs. 15½ ozs; 105 tins of milk, the equivalent of 199½ pints; 3 tins of Grape Fruit juice, 60 fluid ozs; 16 jars of Salad Cream, 104 fluid ozs; and 570 lbs. 12 ozs. and 1 peck of bulk foods were condemned as unfit for human consumption. Details are as follows:-

		lbs.	ozs.		lbs.	ozs.
Fish.	65 tins.	22.	0½	Bulk.	84.	-
				Bulk.	1 peck.	
Fruit.	57 tins.	78.	10.	Bulk.	44.	-
	5 packets.	2.	8.			
	3 tins.	(60 fl.ozs.)				
Jams & Conserves.	7 tins.	18.	8.			
Meat.	276 tins.	656.	2.	Bulk.	1.	12.
Milk.	263 tins.	260.	7½			
	105 tins.	(equiv: 199½ pints).				
Vegetables.	74 tins.	107.	10.			
Miscellaneous.	22 tins.	14.	1½	Bulk.	441.	-
	16 jars.	(104 fl.ozs.)				

Samples of a Salad Cream were submitted to the Public Health Laboratory for bacteriological examination, and to the Public Analyst for Chemical analysis, but were pronounced sound and fit for human consumption.

(d) Total Weight of all Foods condemned.

15.25 tons (approximately).

(e) Slaughterhouse.

The Government Central Slaughterhouse, which is the property of the Stowmarket Co-operative Society, has been maintained in good condition. It has been visited almost daily throughout the year. Minor infringements have been remedied by informal action.

The Slaughterhouse is reasonably well appointed and equipped, particularly for a small one, but there is definite need for a Cold Store. This is especially necessary during the hot summer months.

Four Slaughtermen's licences were renewed.

(f) Transport of Meat.

I feel bound to revert again to this subject. The remarks under this heading in my report for 1948 apply in the main to conditions during 1949, with the exception that metal offal containers were provided and brought into use in August. This is an improvement so far as the transport of offals is concerned but the methods of transporting the meat, i.e. stacked quarter upon quarter on the floors of the vans remained unchanged. The vehicles themselves have always arrived clean at the Slaughterhouse, and the loaders have exercised reasonable care, but fouling of the meat as it is dragged out over the floors of the vans is unavoidable, and this can only be satisfactorily overcome by the use of vehicles equipped with hanging gear. Two visits were paid by the Deputy Area Meat and Livestock Officer and the South Eastern Transport Manager of the Meat Transport Organisation Ltd., and they promised to effect such improvements as were possible.

A circular (M.F. 20/49) dated 30th November, 1949, was issued by the Ministry of Food on the subject of the Transport and Handling of Meat, setting out the present arrangements.

Present statutory requirements are, so far as possible, being complied with, but vehicles lacking hanging facilities make it impossible to transport meat in the most hygienic manner.

(g) Food Premises.

Periodical visits have been paid to all food premises, but no formal action of any kind has been found necessary. Fourteen informal notices to cleanse premises and vehicles and to carry out minor repairs were given and complied with.

Regular inspections of the Market Fish, Fruit and Vegetable stalls and of Ice Cream vehicles have been carried out, and generally conditions have been found satisfactory.

One addition was made to the register of premises for the sale and storage of Ice Cream, and one for the preparation and sale of Fried Fish.

(h) Milk.

The Cowsheds and Dairies, including the C.W.S. Creamery, were visited at frequent intervals until the 1st October, since when, the Dairy Farms having passed over to the responsibility of the Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries, the Dairies only have been visited. Conditions generally have been found reasonably satisfactory. One Dairyman was warned about dirty milk bottles, and the untidy surroundings of his Dairy. Wash basins, towels, and soap were provided at one Dairy as a result of informal notice, and names and addresses painted on Milk Delivery vehicles by similar action, and other minor infringements were also remedied. One Cowshed was cleaned following an Informal Notice.

The Milk and Dairies Register now contains particulars of four Dairy premises, four Distributors, and one distributor for the sale of Bottled Milk only. One Pasteuriser's Licence, one Pasteurised Dealer's Licence, and two Tuberculin Tested Dealer's Licences were granted. One sample of Tuberculin Tested Milk was taken in course of delivery, and found satisfactory.

(i) Food Hygiene.

This subject has received close attention during the year. The Public Health Committee at their December meeting accepted in principle the Model Byelaws, Series I, of the Ministry of Food, relating to the Handling, Trapping, and Delivery of Food and Sale of Food in the Open Air, and were desirous of including a clause prohibiting smoking by persons while engaged in these processes. The Ministry explained the reasons for not having included such a clause in the Model, and the Council agreed to submit the Model as it stood for confirmation.

Conditions generally are as stated in my 1948 report. Only informal notices regarding minor matters have been necessary.

WATER.

Nine samples of water were taken for Bacteriological examination from the Town's two main supplies, and one from the Stowupland Waterworks supply, and all were found to be satisfactory.

One taken from a well supplying two houses was unsatisfactory. The use of the water from this well was prohibited, and the houses were connected to the public supply.

Five samples of water were taken from the Swimming Pool and submitted for Bacteriological examination. All were satisfactory, three being reported "very satisfactory".

SEWAGE AND SEWAGE DISPOSAL.

The sewers and sewage disposal works are under the direct control and supervision of the Surveyor.

SHOPS ACT, 1934.

A number of inspections were carried out, but no statutory action was found necessary.

FACTORIES AND WORKSHOPS.

A number of inspections were carried out, and 24 informal notices given to remedy defects and infringements of the Factories Act, 1937. Details are given on the prescribed Form 572 attached to the Medical Officer's report.

SMOKE NUISANCES.

Complaints of smoke nuisances from two premises - the Laundry, and the G.W.S. Creamery - were received. In both cases, inferior quality fuel was blamed, and doubtless this was a contributory factor. Smoke emissions from the Laundry rarely exceeded what one would expect from such premises, and at no time reached an amount to justify statutory action. That at the Creamery was much more serious, considerable quantities of black smoke being emitted at frequent intervals throughout the day and seven days a week. The chief cause of the trouble in this case, apart from the inferior fuel, was overloading of the boilers. Frequent complaint was made to the Manager, who took it up with his Head office and the Ministry of Fuel and Power, but up to the close of the year little improvement, if any, had been effected. (Note:- At the time of presenting this report definite steps to remedy the nuisance were being put in hand).

CONVENIENCES AT LICENSED AND OTHER PUBLIC PREMISES.

These have been inspected from time to time, and no action has been found necessary.

INFECTIOUS DISEASES.

Fourteen cases of Scarlet Fever, one of Erysipelas, two of suspected Diphtheria, and one of a contact of a case of Acute Poliomyelitis were investigated and necessary action taken.

Three fumigations were carried out.

FOOD POISONING.

One case of suspected Food poisoning was investigated and necessary action taken. Faeces of members of the family were submitted for examination to the Public Health Laboratory. The causative agent was not definitely established.

DISINFESTATIONS.

One bug disinfestation was carried out.

RODENT CONTROL.

The employment of a Rodent operator on alternate days with the Gipping Rural District, commenced on 1st April, 1948, was continued throughout the year, and this proved adequate and satisfactory. A large number of premises were visited, 173 being treated, resulting in a known kill of 1,147 rats and 20 mice. The sewers received two maintenance treatments.

RIVER POLLUTION.

The position as regards the River Gipping remained substantially the same, and no marked improvement can be expected until the new Sewerage Scheme and Sewage Disposal Works come into full operation. Improvements were carried out in the drainage system at the Gas Works, and direct connections to the River were cut off.

No further action was necessary regarding the watercourse from Combs Village.

COMPLAINTS.

219 complaints of various kinds were received and dealt with.

NOTICES.

One Statutory Notice under Section 11 of the Housing Act, 1936, and 328 Informal notices, verbal or by letter, were given, and with few exceptions were complied with. The Statutory Notice referred to No. 65, Union Street, and the Owner gave an undertaking, which was accepted, that the premises would be converted into a store and not again used for human habitation.

CONCLUSION.

I wish to express thanks to all members of the Council and to the Medical Officer of Health and my fellow officers for their co-operation and help during the year.

I would also express thanks to the Manager and the staff of the Government Central Slaughterhouse, who throughout the year have been most helpful and co-operative. I acknowledge also the readiness with which all concerned have complied with necessary requirements, resulting in a number of improvements without recourse to statutory action and the consequent minimum of friction.

I am, Gentlemen,
Your obedient servant.

J.S.FISHER.

Sanitary Inspector, and
Meat and Foods Inspector.

